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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Takeshi HAMADA  
Serial No. : (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/005132)  
For : CONNECTING STRUCTURE FOR PIPING  
MEMBERS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent  
application as follows: